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March 15, 2004

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EX PARTE NOTICE

Electronic Filing

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Room TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: ALLTEL Communications Inc., Petitions for Designation
as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier
CC Docket No. 96-45, DA Nos. 03-1881, 03-1882, 03-3824, 03-3825

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Scott Ford, Chief Executive Officer of ALLTEL Communications, Inc. ("ALLTEL"), Glenn S. Rabin, Vice President, Federal Communications Counsel for ALLTEL, and the undersigned, also representing ALLTEL, met on Friday, March 12, 2004, with Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy to discuss ALLTEL's pending petitions for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier ("ETC") in Virginia, Alabama, North Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

The ALLTEL representatives discussed the criteria that should be applied to ETC petitions pending before the Commission, specifically those set forth in the recent *Virginia Cellular ETC Order*.¹ They noted that ALLTEL has requested the Commission to consider the non-rural service areas covered by the petitions separately from and in advance of the rural service areas and encouraged expeditious consideration of the petitions as to the non-rural service areas. They explained that ALLTEL filed a supplement to the record regarding its ETC petitions fulfilling the *Virginia Cellular*

¹ *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Virginia Cellular, LLC Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier In the Commonwealth of Virginia*, FCC 03-338, CC Docket No. 96-45 (Jan. 22, 2004).

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ETC Order criteria, thereby removing any impediment to further processing of the petitions as to the non-rural service areas. There was also a brief discussion of the recent Recommended Decision of the Federal-State Joint Board, particularly as to the issue of primary lines.² The views expressed by the ALLTEL representatives during the meeting were consistent with the positions set forth in ALLTEL's filings in these proceedings.

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, this letter is filed with your office for inclusion in the public record of the above referenced proceeding. If you have any questions regarding this *ex parte* notice, please contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

/s/ Cheryl A. Tritt

Cheryl A. Tritt
Counsel for ALLTEL Communications, Inc.

cc: Matthew Brill
Scott Ford
Glenn S. Rabin

dc-373904

² *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, Recommended Decision, FCC 04J-1, CC Docket No. 96-45 (Feb. 27, 2004).